River nutrient data Joseph, Seva, NMENV to: undisclosed-recipients:; 10/09/2009 02:32 PM Show Details

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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Surface Water Quality Bureau Seeks Water Quality Data to Support Development of Nutrient Criteria for Rivers

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is soliciting surface water quality data to develop nutrient criteria for rivers. This includes development of threshold values for total phosphorus and total nitrogen, and possibly chlorophyll a concentration and diurnal dissolved oxygen fluctuation. The federal Clean Water Action Plan of March 1998 requires that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states develop and implement numeric criteria for nutrients that reflect the different types of water bodies (e.g., streams, lakes, and rivers) and different ecoregions of the country. EPA has stated that "to be effective, nutrient criteria should address causal (both nitrogen and phosphorus) and response (chlorophyll a or an index of biotic integrity) variables". These criteria will be used to determine if waters are supporting their designated uses.

SWQB is specifically soliciting chemical and biological data that were collected since 1990 from the San Juan River, Rio Grande, Pecos River below Sumner Reservoir, Rio Chama below El Vado Reservoir, Canadian River, and Gila River below Mogollon Creek (parameters of interest are listed in the table below). Parameters that were collected at the same time and location are desirable, but any subset of cause, response, and classification variables would be welcome. We are also interested in any available benthic macroinvertebrate, fish, and algal community composition data.

Causal variables Response variables Classification variables
Total phosphorus Chlorophyll a conc. Specific conductance
Total nitrogen DO concentration Alkalinity
Nitrite + nitrateDO saturation Total suspended solids
Total Kjeldahl nitrogen pH Hardness
Chloride

All data submitted must be accompanied by quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) protocols under which the data were collected. SWQB will evaluate QA/QC information and determine if and how the data can be used.

To be considered for use in this effort, data must, at a minimum, meet the QA/QC requirements described in the SWQB's Quality Assurance Project Plan for Water Quality Management Programs 2009 (QAPP), with particular emphasis on ensuring that the analytical methods used meet the requirements specified in Section 2.4 of this QAPP, that the methods of data collection were the same as or comparable to those included in the Standard Operating Procedures for Data Collection (SOP) referenced throughout this QAPP, and that the QC criteria used to verify and validate the data were the same or similar to those listed in Table 2.4 and Appendix B of the QAPP.

Data packages will be accepted until close of business on November 13, 2009.

Data packages should include:

Information on sampling and analysis QA/QC procedures; Data provided in electronic format, preferably Excel, Access, or compatible format on CD or via e-mail (the SWQB will provide a confirmation of receipt for electronic mail submissions); A citable report summarizing the data (if available), and; Contact information for the entity that generated the data set.

Interested persons should address questions or mail data packages to the NMED-SWQB, Attention: Seva Joseph, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505, (505) 827-0573, or e-mail: seva.joseph@state.nm.us

Thank you

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